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STAT

CIA Watchdog Compromise Doubtful, Mansfield Says

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Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday that it "looks doubtful" any compromise agreement can be worked out on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's efforts to obtain representation on the CIA watchdog committee.

Mansfield, who has been trying for more than a week to work out a settlement, reported that he was "making no progress."

He added that he will not wait much longer before allowing the issue to come to the Senate floor for a showdown.

However, Mansfield said this would not be before the end of this week.

The CIA issue was brought to the forefront when the Foreign Relations Committee headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., approved by a vote of 14-5 a resolution creating a nine-member select committee on intelligence operations.

Would Expand Committee

The effect of the resolution would be to expand the present watchdog committee to include three members from the foreign relations group.

It has met with the powerful

opposition of Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., and other members of the committee. The group, made up of senior Democratic and Republican members of the Senate Appropriations and Armed Services Committees, keeps tab on the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency.

Russell contends that the Foreign Relations Committee is trying to "muscle in" on the watchdog operations and sees no need for it. He argues that it would increase the chances of "leaks" in vital information.

Mansfield said he would like to see the Foreign Relations Committee given "some kind of representation." While the CIA does not make policy, he pointed out, it is involved in foreign policy by the nature of its activities.

Fears Harmful Debate

At the same time, Mansfield said he wanted to avoid a floor battle on the matter if possible. He is fearful, he explained, that some things might be said in debate that would harm the agency or the Senate.

This is only one of several issues confronting the Senate in what promises to be a long, hot summer on Capitol Hill.

Others include the annual battle over foreign aid, a floor fight and possible filibuster over a new civil rights bill with a provision banning discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, and minimum wage legislation.

Mansfield tentatively has set his sights on adjournment around Labor Day. He has acknowledged that this is an elastic target.

With passage last week of the "truth-in-packaging" bill and other legislation, Mansfield said the Senate now has acted on about 42 percent of President Johnson's program.